

Windham High School Receives Donation of Grand Piano

by Barbara O'Brien

Students who attend Windham High School, after it opens in September of 2009, will have the pleasure of listening to an exquisite baby grand piano, generously donated by two Windham residents, through the Windham Endowment for Community Enhancement organization.

School Board members unanimously (5-0) accepted the donation of the Kawai Baby Grand Piano during their meeting on Tuesday, January 22. The Windham Endowment organization was represented at the school board meeting by Diane Carpenter.

Windham Endowment is a non-profit community foundation, created in 2005, to enhance the quality of life for all residents. Windham Endowment provides a way for individuals, organizations and corporations to channel their philanthropic giving for educational, cultural, recreational and environmental interests within the town.

"This wonderful gift was made possible by Cathy and Al Pappalardo and we'd like to thank them for their generous donation," Carpenter said. As the gift was made to the Endowment, rather than directly to the school district, Endowment members were able to coordinate the various pieces involved in making this donation. "Working together with members of the community, the Endowment coordinated the independent appraisal, the moving of the piano from Methuen to Windham, ordering a commercial cover for the piano and arranging to store the piano," Carpenter explained. "We are thrilled to be able to facilitate this philanthropic effort and need to thank many people," she said.

Appreciation was expressed to Cathy and Al Pappalardo for their beautiful and generous gift; Marion Dinsmore for helping to locate an appraiser and mover; the Windham Woman's Club for their kind donation, which allowed the purchase of a piano cover; Dr. Frank Bass for helping to find "a home" for the piano, while the high school is being finished, and at the Windham Middle School: Principal Cori Becht, Assistant Maureen Venus and the entire custodial staff, for all their help on moving day (which happened to be the Friday of Christmas Vacation), and finally, School Board Member Beverly Donovan, whose efforts that week were described as "incredible."

"Community foundations like Windham Endowment are one of the fastest growing sectors of philanthropy, today, as they make it possible for a wide range of donors to strengthen their communities," Carpenter said. "This piano is an example of such a gift." More can be learned about Windham Endowment by going to its web site at: www.windhamendowment.org.